GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:581
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
SOURCES OF GAS AND OIL FOR EXPORT
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a contingent plan to tap the new sources of gas and oil export in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said plan contains any provision for augmenting the domestic production in this sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of work carried out to find out the alternative of oil and gas with help of Domestic Production?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) to (d): Several steps have been taken to increase oil and gas production in the country and tap oil reserves abroad, which include the following:

(i) to improve the recovery factor from existing major fields by implementing Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) schemes in particular Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has taken up 15 fields for this purpose at an estimated investment of Rs. 10,000 crore, which would also help in accelerating oil production from these fields.

(ii) to increase exploration efforts through the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under the first and second rounds of NELP, Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 47 blocks. Offer of 27 exploration blocks under NELP-III was also announced in March 2002 and a total of 45 bids for 23 Blocks has been received by the bid closing date i.e. 28.8.2002.

(iii) to explore in new areas, especially in deep water and difficult frontier areas, as also explore in the deeper layers of the producing fields.

(iv) to develop faster the newly discovered fields and to step up the use of new technologies for seismic surveys, work over, stimulation operations, drilling of wells etc. in producing areas.

(v) to acquire acreage abroad, ONGCVidesh Ltd (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil &Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has acquired participating interests in the overseas E&P projects in Vietnam, Myamnar & Iraq. In 2001, OVL obtained \20% stake in Sakhalin-I project of Russia with and estimated investment of about US$1.74 billion (Rs. 8,500 crore, approximately)

(e): 5% ethanol blended petrol has been introduced in some parts in the country. Nine States and four Union Territories are likely to be covered under the programme by the end of June 2003.